

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Page 1: After the title, insert:

[0001] --This is a 371 national phase application of PCT/IB2004/002683 filed 18 August 2004, claiming priority to Japanese Patent Application No. 2003-300028 filed 25 August 2003, the contents of which are incorporated herein by reference.--

Page 2, paragraph 6 to page 4, paragraph 14:

Replace paragraphs 6 to 14 with the following amended and renumbered paragraphs 7-15:

[0007] In order to achieve the aforementioned objects, the invention relates to a fuel cell system including a fuel cell, electric power storing ~~means~~ device, and electric power supplying ~~means~~ device for supplying electric power to a load from the fuel cell and the electric power storing ~~means~~ device. In the fuel cell system, the electric power supplying ~~means~~ device includes intermittent operation ~~means~~ device for stopping operation of the fuel cell when an amount of electric power required by the load is smaller than a reference value, and starting the stopped operation of the fuel cell when the amount of electric power required by the load is equal to or larger than the reference value, and threshold value adjusting ~~means~~ device for adjusting the reference value according to internal electromotive force in the fuel cell whose operation has been stopped.

[0008] With the configuration, since the threshold value for starting the operation of the fuel cell is adjusted according to the internal electromotive force (open circuit voltage) generated by remaining fuel gas in the fuel cell, the operation of the fuel cell can be restarted in a short time. Accordingly, even when supply of fuel (hydrogen) to the fuel cell is completely stopped during intermittent operation of the fuel cell, the fuel cell can be restarted quickly. Thus, the efficiency of the fuel cell system during

the intermittent operation can be improved, and operability of the fuel cell system during the intermittent operation can be improved, that is, a starting response time of the fuel cell system can be reduced.

[0009] In the fuel cell system, the electric power supplying ~~means~~ device may include the intermittent operation ~~means~~ device for stopping the operation of the fuel cell when the amount of electric power required by the load is smaller than a first reference value, and starting the operation of the fuel cell when the amount of electric power required by the load is equal to or larger than a second reference value, and the threshold adjusting ~~means~~ device for adjusting the second reference value according to the internal electromotive force in the fuel cell whose operation has been stopped. The electric power storing ~~means~~ device stores electric energy. For example, a secondary battery (storage battery), a capacitor, or a so-called ultra capacitor (a capacitor having a large capacity) is employed as the electric power storing ~~means~~ device.

[0010] With the configuration, since the threshold value for starting the operation of the fuel cell is adjusted according to the internal electromotive force (open circuit voltage) generated by remaining fuel gas in the fuel cell, the operation of the fuel cell can be restarted in a short time, as in the aforementioned fuel cell system according to the invention. Accordingly, even when supply of fuel (hydrogen) to the fuel cell is completely stopped during intermittent operation of the fuel cell, the operation of the fuel cell can be restarted quickly. Thus, the efficiency of the fuel cell system during the intermittent operation can be improved, and operability of the fuel cell system during the intermittent operation can be improved, that is, the starting response time of the fuel cell system can be reduced. Also, since a determination value (threshold value) for determining whether the operation of the fuel cell needs to be started is different from a determination value (threshold value) for determining whether the operation of the fuel cell needs to be stopped, occurrence of hunting can be prevented.

[0011] The threshold value adjusting ~~means~~ device may decrease the second reference value according to a decrease in the internal electromotive force in the fuel cell such that a time at which the operation of the fuel cell is started is relatively advanced.

[0012] Also, the threshold value adjusting ~~means~~ device may store data related to the second reference value that needs to be set according to the internal electromotive force in the fuel cell. The data may be stored as a table or a function.

[0013] Also, the electric power storing ~~means~~ device may include at least one of a secondary battery (or a storage battery) and a capacitor that are charged with electric power by the fuel cell.

[0014] The invention relates to an electric vehicle including a motor that generates power for the vehicle, and a fuel cell system that includes a fuel cell, an electric power storing ~~means~~ device and an electric power supplying ~~means~~ device for supplying electric power to the motor from the fuel cell and the electric power storing ~~means~~ device. In the electric vehicle, the electric power supplying ~~means~~ device includes intermittent operation ~~means~~ device for stopping operation of the fuel cell when an amount of electric power required by the load including the motor is smaller than a reference value, and starting the stopped operation of the fuel cell when the amount of electric power required by the load is equal to or larger than the reference value, and threshold adjusting ~~means~~ device for adjusting the reference value according to internal electromotive force in the fuel cell whose operation has been stopped.

[0015] In the electric vehicle, the electric power supplying ~~means~~ device may include intermittent operation ~~means~~ device for stopping operation of the fuel cell when an amount of electric power required by the load including the motor is smaller than a first reference value, and starting the operation of the fuel cell when the amount of electric power required by the load is equal to or larger than a second reference value, and threshold

adjusting ~~means~~ device for adjusting the second reference value according to internal electromotive force in the fuel cell whose operation has been stopped.